

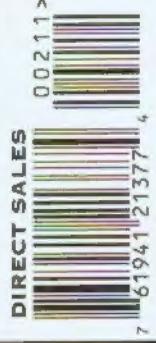


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BABYLON IN VALEN'S NAME™

PART TWO OF THREE

BY J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI,
PETER DAVID, MICHAEL COLLINS
AND DAVID ROACH



BASED ON THE WARNER BROS. TELEVISION SERIES **BABYLON 5** CREATED BY J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI

OBI



BAARDE
HAXTUR... A
PROBLEM HAS ARisen
THAT MAY REQUIRE
OUR ABANDONING OUR
CURRENT SALVAGE
MISSION OF THE
PAKKEL SHIP.3

WHAT
SORT OF
PROBLEM?

5 AUTO TRANSLATION
OF TANCH'A ENGAGED

WE
HAVE LOST
CONTACT WITH THE
TEAM WE LEFT BEHIND
ON ENDE X'TON...
ON THE LOST
STATION.

BUT THEIR
LAST REPORTS
STATED THEY MET WITH...
INTERFERENCE.

UNCERTAIN
AT THIS TIME, BUT
FROM PRELIMINARY
REPORTS...

WE
FEAR THEY
ENCOUNTERED
SAVAGES... AND
THAT OUR
PEOPLE ARE
LOST.

WHAT SORT OF...
"INTERFERENCE"?



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THE
TEACHINGS OF
THE ZONDAR WOULD
AGREE, DO YOU NOT
THINK SO?

ONCE AGAIN,
RAMDE, IT IS... AS
YOU SAY.



IN VALEN'S NAME

BOOK
TWO

J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI PETER DAVID MICHAEL COLLINS DAVID ROACH
STORY ARC WRITER PENCILLER INKER
RS & COMICRAFT'S ALBERT DESCHESNE PRISMACOLOR ROBERT GRAFF
LETTERS LETTERS COLORS EDITOR

BABCOM IVANOVA

BOOM TODAY, BOOM
TOMORROW.

THE SILENCE IS SURPRISING. AS WE GO UP IN FLAMES, HITTING THE PLANET'S ATMOSPHERE, I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE MORE NOISE THAN THAT. SCREAMS OF THE DYING, AND THE SOUNDS OF METAL TWISTING, THE HULL RUPTURING...

BUT IT'S ALL SO QUIET. LIKE OUR DEATHS MEAN NOTHING, BUT SHOULD INSTEAD BE UNREMARKED UPON, WITHOUT SO MUCH AS EVEN A SOUND.

THE PROBLEM WITH DEATH IS, THERE'S NO HIGHER COURT TO WHICH YOU CAN APPEAL THE SENTENCE.

WELL, THERE IS, I GUESS... BUT ONCE YOU GET THERE...

...IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO FILE AN APPEAL.

5





"MY SON DIED TODAY. ZATHRAS, THE FOLLOWER OF VALEN, TOLD ME."

"MY SON, TULAN, WHO FOLLOWED VALEN UPON THE CREATION OF THE ANLA 'SHOK."

"HE SAID HE DIED... BRAVELY."

"AND I IMAGINE THAT I SHOULD TAKE SOLACE... IN THE TEACHINGS... AND REJOICE IN THE LIBERATION OF HIS SOUL AND INEVITABLE SPIRITUAL GROWTH..."

"BUT WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES... I CAN..."

"I CAN ALMOST HEAR HIM."

"HE WAS A GENTLE SOUL. A SPIRITUAL SOUL. RAISED TO BE A SCHOLAR, NOT A WARRIOR."

"BUT THE WORDS OF VALEN 'INSPIRED' HIM... DROVE HIM TO PLACE THE ANLA 'SHOK' ABOVE HIS CASTE..."

"...DROVE HIM TO FACE THE ENEMY..."

"BRAVELY.
SO SAID
ZATHRAS."

"BUT ZATHRAS
SAYS MUCH. HE
FILLS THE AIR
WITH WORDS."

"AND PERHAPS
NOT ALL THE
WORDS...
ARE TRUE."

"MY GENTLE
SON, REMAKING
HIMSELF..."

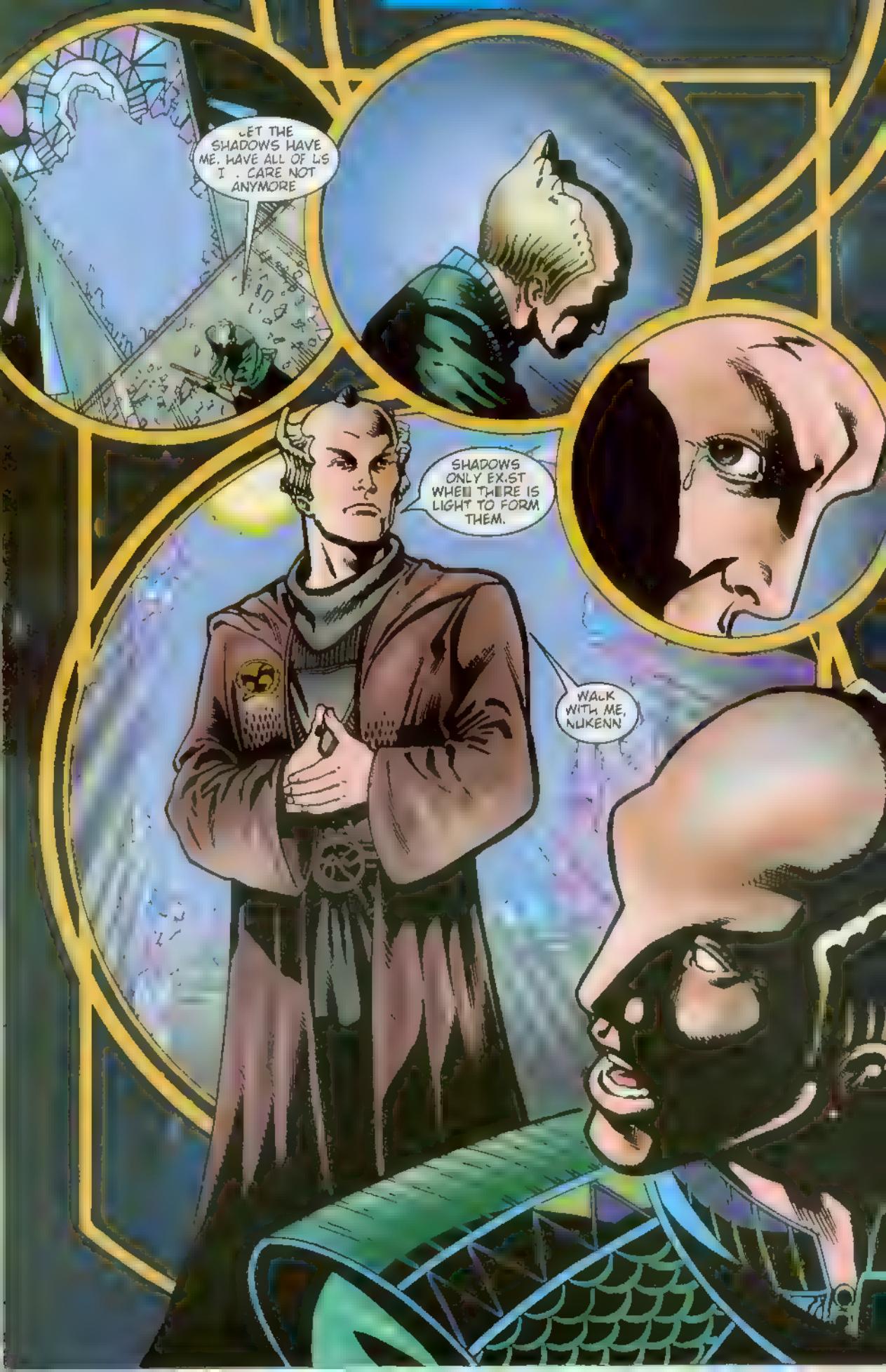
"FOR THE
SAKE OF
VALEN..."

"FOR THE NAME OF
VALEN. VALEN, IN
WHOSE NAME I
CRAFTED THE WINDOW,
WITH A CARE EQUAL
TO THAT WITH WHICH
I CRAFTED THE
LIFE..."

"...THE LIFE
OF MY SON."



DAMN
VALEN! DAMN
THEM ALL! AND DAMN
ME FOR LETTING IT
HAPPEN!



LET THE SHADOWS HAVE ME. HAVE ALL OF US I CARE NOT ANYMORE

SHADOWS ONLY EXIST WHEN THERE IS LIGHT TO FORM THEM.

WALK WITH ME, NUKENN



YEAH,
CAPTAIN, I
THOUGHT YOU'D
WANT TO SEE THIS,
SOON AS I
FOUND IT



APPRECIATE
YOU THINKING
OF ME, MICHAEL.
NOW...

...ANY
THOUGHTS
AS TO WHAT
IT IS?



WELL,
CALL ME
CRAZY...

...BUT
IT LOOKS
TO ME LIKE
GRAFFITI.

GREAT.
NOW WHAT'S
IT SAY?



I'M
HARDLY WHAT
YOU'D CALL
FLUENT...

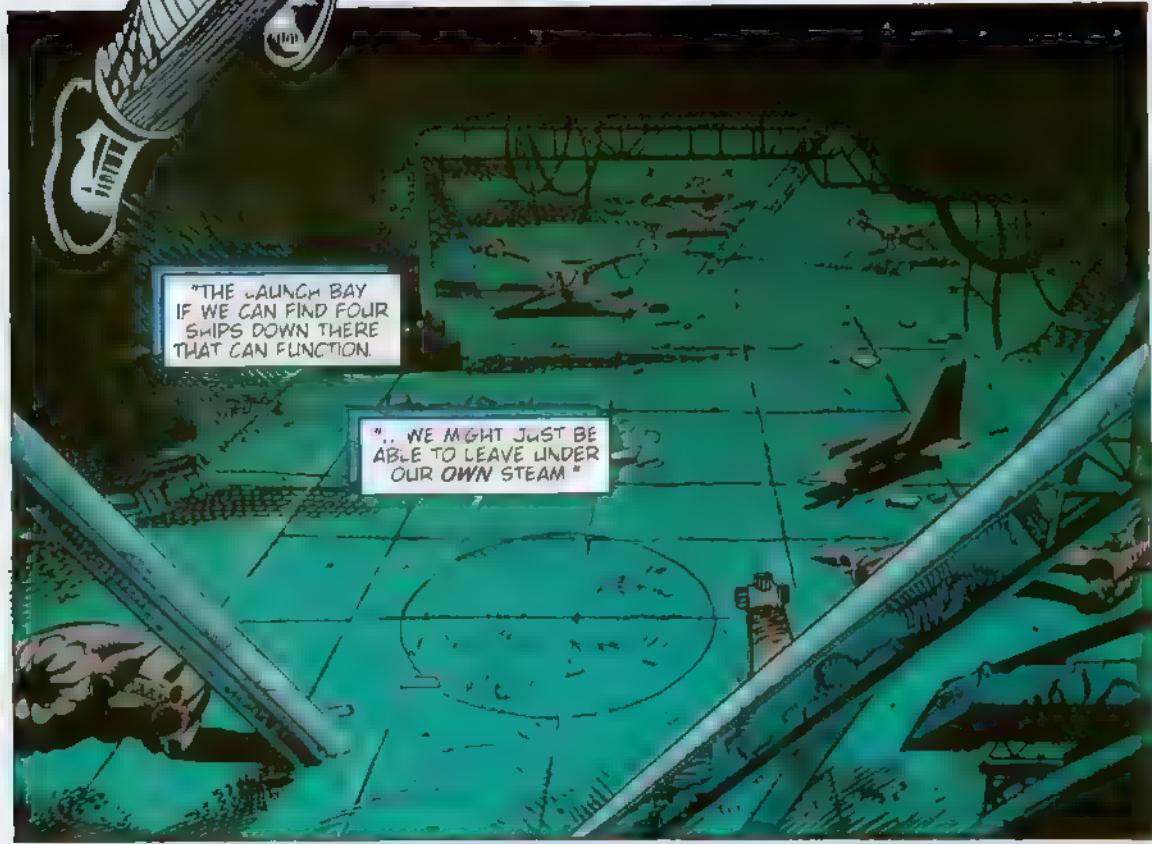
...BUT THAT
DOESN'T LOOK
LIKE ANY MINBARI
I'VE EVER SEEN.



YES.

DON'T
WORRY, DELENN.
EVERYTHING YOU'RE
LEARNING FROM THEM
WON'T BE IN VAIN. WE'RE
WORKING ON A PLAN TO
GET OUT OF HERE
IN TIME





"VALEN BROUGHT US HOPE MORE THAN THAT... HE FORGED ALLIANCES WITH OTHERS THAT WE WOULD NEVER HAVE THOUGHT POSSIBLE

"AND I, RASHOK, WHO ONCE THOUGHT THAT THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT FOR US SAVE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION.

"...EAGERLY AWAITED THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO BATTLE WITH THE CREATURES OF SHADOW ONCE MORE. AND I KNEW THAT I WOULD, INDEED, FOLLOW VALEN INTO FIRE, INTO DARKNESS, INTO DEATH.

"...FOR HE WAS UNAFRAID TO LEAD US INTO THE HEART OF THE BATTLE. IT WAS AS IF HE KNEW THAT TRIUMPH WAS INEVITABLE. FROM HIS CONFIDENCE... FLOWED OUR OWN





"ONE BATTLE SEEMED TO FLOW
INTO THE NEXT, LIKE ONE GREAT
TRIBUTARY INTO ANOTHER. MOVING,
SHIFTING, AS DO CURRENTS

"...BUT WHEREAS THE CURRENT
HAD FLOWED AGAINST US
BEFORE . THIS TIME

". . . THIS TIME WE BECAME
SWEPT UP IN IT, HURTLING
AGAINST THE ENEMY AND AS
UNSTOPPABLE AS A TIDE



"WE WERE JOINED BY POWERFUL
ALLIES, FLOCKING TO OUR
BANNER, TO OUR LEADER... TO
VALEN THE MINBAR OF DESTINY."

"WE FOUGHT FOR
THE SAKE OF
VALEN... IN THE
NAME OF VALEN."

"...AND IT WAS
GLORIOUS."



"I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED IF VALEN, THE MINBARI NOT BORN OF MINBARI, COULD BE MORE THAN HE APPEARED

".. NATIRALLY, HIS HELPMATE WOULD BE AS WELL."

COME, ZATHRAS MAKE YOU SNACK?

YOU SEE VALEN LATER. LATER IS BETTER THAN SOONER, IS WHAT ZATHRAS THINK.

VERY... WELL IF YOU THINK THAT IS VALEN'S WISH I WILL HONOR IT

GOOD. HONORING VALEN'S WISH IS VERY GOOD. ZATHRAS HONOR IT. YOU HONOR IT. ALL MINBARI HONOR IT. ZATHRAS SAY IS GOOD THING.

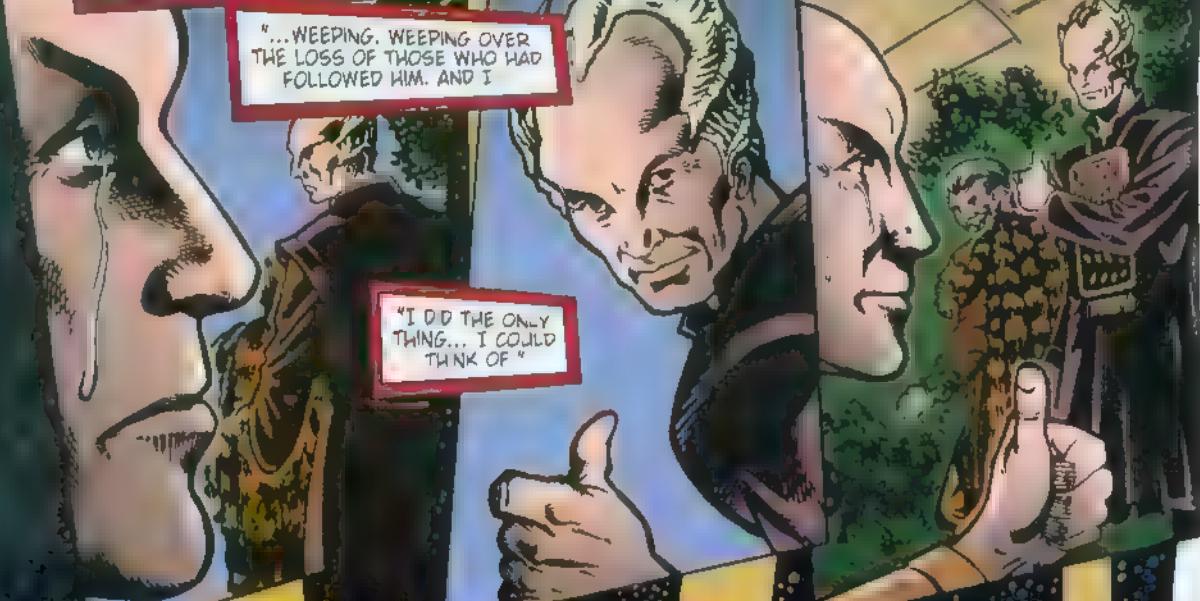
JUST AS, NOW, VALEN HONORS ALL DEAD. ALL MINBARI DEAD. VORLON DEAD. TAK-CHA DEAD. EVEN SHADOWS DEAD ZATHRAS SAY IS ALSO GOOD THING.

BUT IS ALSO.. SAD THING.

"HERE WAS VALEN, WHO HAD TORN DOWN WALLS BETWEEN ENEMIES, FORGED ALLIANCES THE STRONGEST INDIVIDUAL I HAD EVER KNOWN.

"...WEEPING, WEEPING OVER THE LOSS OF THOSE WHO HAD FOLLOWED HIM. AND I

"I DID THE ONLY THING... I COULD THINK OF"



"WALK WITH ME, NUKENN," HE SAID AFTER I SHATTERED THE WINDOW. I DO NOT KNOW FOR HOW LONG WE WALKED.

BUT OUR JOURNEY TOOK US TO MOUNT H'LEYA, THE PEAK FROM WHICH VALEN HAD DEL VERED HIS HOLY 'TIMES TO COME' SPEECH

HE SPOKE OF THE CASTES UNITED... OF A NEW AGE FOR MINBARI. HE SPOKE OF THE DEFEAT OF THE SHADOWS AS IF IT WERE INEVITABLE...

...AND OF THEIR RETURN... AS LIKEWISE INEVITABLE.

IN SHORT, HE SPOKE OF EVERYTHING... EXCEPT THE SICKNESS THAT ATE MY SOUL. AND THEN.

YOUR SON... SHOULD NOT HAVE COME TO ME

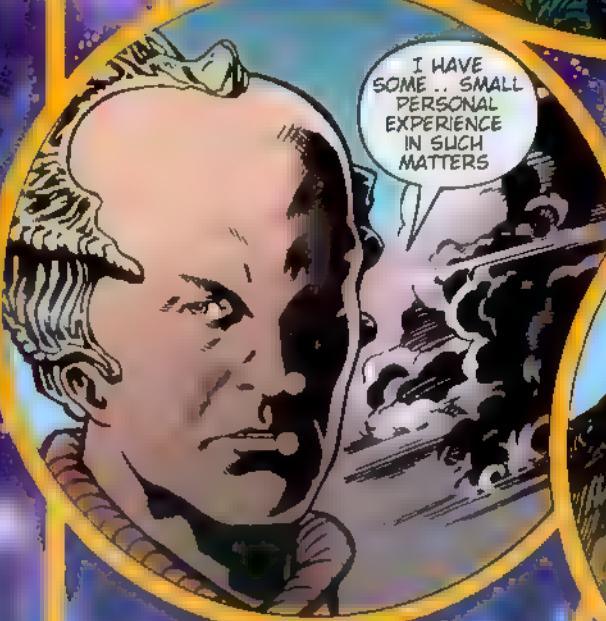
WHAT?



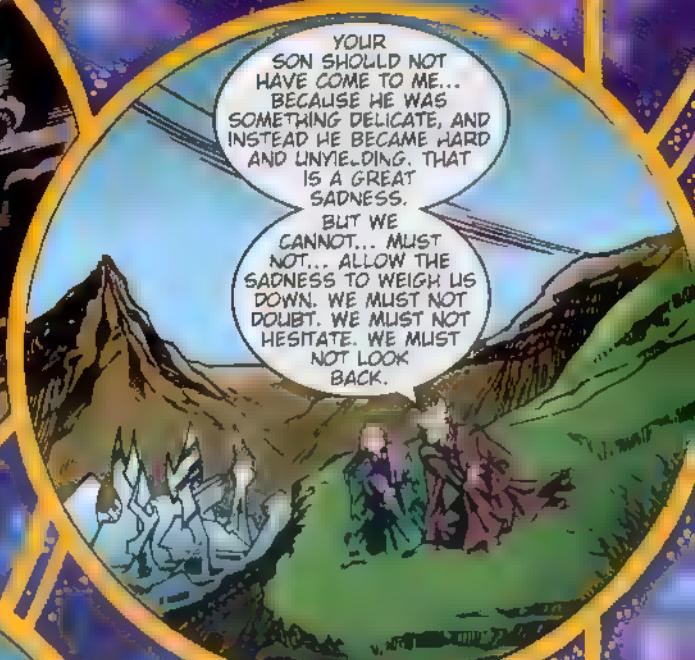
HIS WAS A
MOST GENTLE SOUL. THE
PROBLEM IS THAT WHEN A
GENTLE SOUL FACES THE DEPTHS
OF DARKNESS... AS HE DID...
IT BECOMES TAINTED.
DARKENED.

THE LOSS
OF SUCH A SOUL...
IS A LOSS TO
US ALL.

BUT WE
BECAME WHAT WE
MUST IN ORDER TO
ACCOMPLISH WHAT WE
FELT NEEDED TO BE
ACCOMPLISHED. WE
TRANSFORMED
OURSELVES

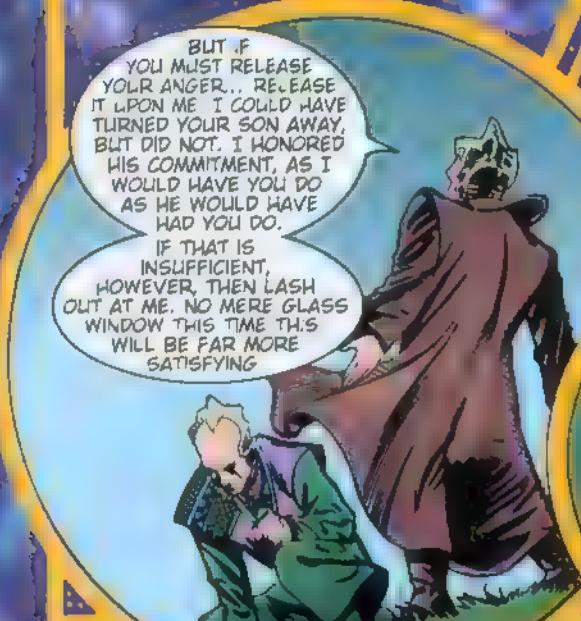


I HAVE
SOME... SMALL
PERSONAL
EXPERIENCE
IN SUCH
MATTERS



YOUR
SON SHOULD NOT
HAVE COME TO ME...
BECAUSE HE WAS
SOMETHING DELICATE, AND
INSTEAD HE BECAME HARD
AND UNYIELDING. THAT
IS A GREAT
SADNESS.

BUT WE
CANNOT... MUST
NOT... ALLOW THE
SADNESS TO WEIGH US
DOWN. WE MUST NOT
DOUBT. WE MUST NOT
HESITATE. WE MUST
NOT LOOK
BACK.



BUT IF
YOU MUST RELEASE
YOUR ANGER... RELEASE
IT UPON ME. I COULD HAVE
TURNED YOUR SON AWAY,
BUT DID NOT. I HONORED
HIS COMMITMENT, AS I
WOULD HAVE YOU DO
AS HE WOULD HAVE
HAD YOU DO.

IF THAT IS
INSUFFICIENT,
HOWEVER, THEN LASH
OUT AT ME. NO MERE GLASS
WINDOW THIS TIME THIS
WILL BE FAR MORE
SATISFYING



WELL?

"I WANTED HIS
STRENGTH. WANTED
HIS CONVICTION."

"I ALSO FEARED
IT, FOR IN A WAY,
HE HAD SEEMED
DISTANT, INFLEXIBLE."

"HE DID NOT SEEM
TO HAVE... COMPASSION,
NOT REALLY.
UNDERSTANDING,
PERHAPS, BUT NOT
COMPASSION."

"HOW COULD HE
HAVE THOUGHT THAT
AN OFFER OF VIOLENCE
WOULD, IN ANY WAY,
HELP THE ACHE WITHIN
ME?"

"AND
THEN..."

"I SAW IT."

"I NEVER
KNEW HOW HE
ACCOMPLISHED
IT."

"IN THE FINAL
ANALYSIS... IT DID
NOT MATTER."







NOW IF
YOU CAN
FIX ANOTHER
TWO DOZEN OF SO
WITHIN THE NEXT
THIRTY SECONDS,
WE SHOULD BE
IN GREAT
SHAPE.